

Public Comments on Whole Body Contact Recreation Use
and Department Recommendation for Use Designation

WBID 1707 Missouri River, Part 1

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Water Protection Program

Mississippi River

Clean Water Rules re. Mississippi River - Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR

Agnew, Al



"Al & Mary Agnew"
<mail@alagnew.com>

11/02/2005 08:52 AM

Please respond to
mail@alagnew.com

To stacia.bax@dnr.mo.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Clean Water Rules re. Mississippi River

It is my understanding that the Mississippi below St. Louis is being considered for exemption from the new clean water rules.

I have personally canoed the Mississippi in the area between Cape Rock and the landing in Cape Girardeau, although this was about 20 years ago. I have also canoed the river from the mouth of Establishment Creek to the ferry landing at Ste. Genevieve. And I have boated and fished the river from the marina in Ste. Genevieve to the Chester highway bridge, the last time being in July of 2004.

In addition, the Ste. Genevieve bass club, and occasionally other bass clubs, use the marina in Ste. Genevieve to access the river, in order to run downriver to the mouth of the Kaskaskia River and then up the Kaskaskia through the locks to bass fishing areas on the Kaskaskia. Some of them also run up and down the river to fish backwaters and sloughs of the Mississippi.

Every summer you will see speedboats, people on waterskis, and jet skiers on the river in the Ste. Genevieve area. While this is not a common occurrence (you will not see such recreation on every weekend), it is not unusual. You will also see people with children on the sandbars along the river in the Ste. Genevieve area, especially around the ferry landing. The children will occasionally get wet, as children often do around water.

I don't know about whole body recreation on the Maline or River des Peres, but this whole idea of exemptions seems rather ridiculous to me. I would venture to say that EVERY body of flowing water in Missouri runs into a stream used for whole body recreation. Since the Mississippi below St. Louis is most definitely used at times for whole body contact recreation, it should not be exempted, and since the other streams considered for exemption flow directly into the Mississippi, it makes no sense to exempt them, either.

Al Agnew

The Al Agnew Collection
11779 Highway 32
Ste. Genevieve MO 63670
573-883-5121
mail@alagnew.com
www.alagnew.com

Mississippi River

p182

MISSOURI
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Diane J. Albright
8835 Glenwood Dr.
Crestwood, MO 63126
November 23, 2005

Stacia Box
Use Attainability Analysis Coordinator
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Dear Ms. Box,

I am writing to request the Missouri Clean Water Commission's September 7, 2005 decision, to exempt several water bodies in the St. Louis Region, be reconsidered. The new state water quality rules apply to these three water bodies, too. It is a matter of public health.

Although my request is for all three, I offer my own personal experience on the Mississippi River to counter the argument about people not engaged in "intentional whole body contact" in this section of the river. Not true!

I canoe and camp on the Mississippi River. This is an annual event with friends. We plan the trip during the summer when temperatures are frequently well above 80°F. Three days on the river provide us with the opportunity to immerse ^{ourselves} and we do, floating & swimming where the river permits.

But as tricky as the currents, undertows, boils + etc. are on the Mississippi River, the hazard of swimming & wading in polluted waters or camping on sandbars, which are seasonally flooded, is equally on my mind during these forays. The joy, for me is overshadowed by the knowledge that the river is not clean, nor is it going to be in the near future.

Living next to such a natural treasure, like the Mississippi River beckons. Whether my intent is to swim or fish or not, should not be the criteria on which public health concerns be weighed. People will be in the water.

Interpretation of the Clean Water Act and Missouri's subsequent rules and laws needs to be realistic and not pander to special interests.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,
Diane J. Albright

CC. Ms. Bonnie Hieck, EPA Region VII



Ms. Diane J. Albright
8835 Glenwood Dr
Saint Louis, MO 63128-1930

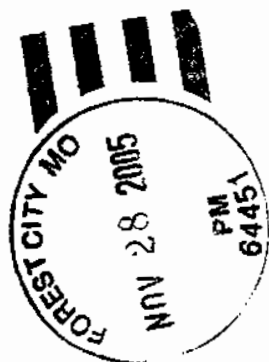


SAINT LOUIS MO 631

25 NOV 85 PM 02 L

Ms. Stacia Box
Use Attainability Analysis Coordinator
P.O. Box 176
Jeff City, MO 65102-0176

Albright, Diane
P282



Mississippi River

Cohen, Laura



Confluence Greenway
2100 Locust #2n
St. Louis, MO 63103
Phone 314.436.1324
Phone 618.874.8556
Fax 314.436.9215
www.confluencegreenway.org

RECEIVED
2005 AUG 22 AM 11:36
WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

August 17, 2005

Attn: Marlene Kirchner
Clean Water Commission
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 176
Jefferson City MO 65102-0176

RE: Protection of Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in the St. Louis Area


Dear Ms. Kirchner:

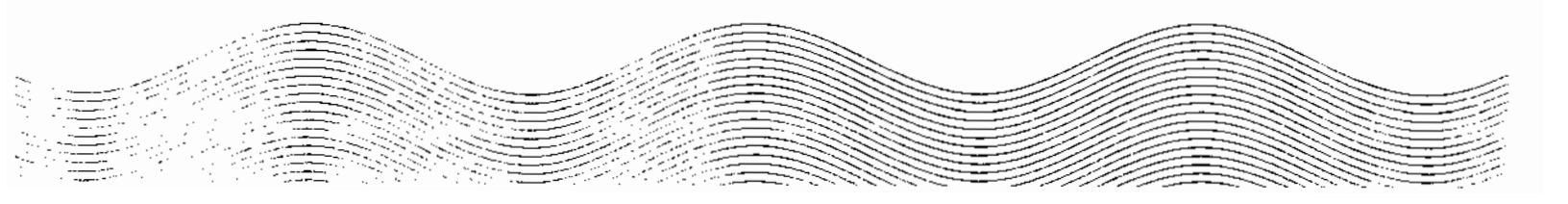
The Confluence Greenway project is a collaborative effort by non-profit organizations and government agencies to create a 200 square mile conservation, heritage and recreation area centered on the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers in the heart of the St. Louis bi-state, metropolitan area. In this magnificent river corridor there are countless opportunities for area residents and visitors to enjoy the natural world, to explore our heritage, to bike, hike, fish, hunt, and boat – in short, to realize the interconnectedness of our rivers with our region's history, economy, and quality of life.

When fully realized, the Confluence Greenway will reflect public and private investments exceeding \$200 million, with more than \$100 million already spent or committed. Today, 11,000 acres of new public parks and nature areas surround the majestic Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers including the Jones Confluence Point State Park and Columbia Bottom Conservation Area. A system of 100 miles of multi-use trails and historic bridges links the Gateway Arch to Pere Marquette State Park and St. Charles, with a future connection to the KATY Trail. And several new museums and visitor centers now showcase our region's river heritage.

People want to reconnect to these great rivers. In our experience, these rivers can accommodate multiple users – individuals and industry; commerce and conservation; bicyclists and barges – without compromising safety or security. We encourage the protection of these rivers for all Missourians.

Sincerely,


Laura Cohen
Project Director





Confluence Greenway
2100 Locust #20
St. Louis, MO 63103

SAINT LOUIS MO 631

18 AUG 05 PM 08:23

190

0072

3485

SAINT LOUIS MO

63103

Ms. Markene Fuchner - Clean Water Commission
Mo Dept of Natural Resources
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

65102-0176



Mississippi River

» Mississippi River and Coon Creek - Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR

DiStefano, Cindy

P182



"Cindy DiStefano"
<Cindy.DiStefano@mdc.mo.gov>

11/28/2005 11:38 AM

To stacia.bax@dnr.mo.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Mississippi River and Coon Creek

Please see attached. Hard copies will follow by mail.

Cindy

Cindy DiStefano
Resource Scientist - Environmental Services
Missouri Department of Conservation
1110 S. College Ave.
Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 882-9909 x3297
FAX - (573) 882-4517
Cindy.DiStefano@mdc.mo.gov



Mississippi River UAA Stacia.doc Coon Creek UAA Stacia.doc

REPLY TO: Resource Science Center
1110 S. College Ave.
Columbia, MO 65201
Telephone: 573-882-9880
Fax: 573-882-4517

November 28, 2005

Ms. Stacia Bax
Use Attainability Analysis Coordinator
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

Dear Ms. Bax,

Subject: Use of the Mississippi River for Swimming or Other Whole Body Recreation

The Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed designated use change for the Mississippi River. The "fishable/swimmable" goal of the Clean Water Act is intended to allow Missouri citizens the opportunity to enjoy the resources of the state, including the opportunity to safely recreate in its waters. The Department fully supports the attainment of the water quality standards necessary to meet the goals of the Clean Water Act in the State of Missouri and encourages citizens to better understand and appreciate aquatic systems and the life that lives in them.

MDC staff have seen the public swimming at Red Star Access (river mile 53) and off of the islands throughout the summer in the Cape Girardeau area. Water skiing is a summer activity in the Mississippi River around the confluence of the Meramec River and jet-skiing is popular around the Cape Girardeau riverfront.

The Department looks forward to continuing its partnership with MDNR on better protecting and conserving Missouri's lakes, rivers and streams. Please feel free to contact me at (573) 882-9909 extension 3297, if you have specific questions or would like further information.

Sincerely,

Cindy DiStefano
Resource Scientist



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

Headquarters

2901 West Truman Boulevard, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102-0180

Telephone: 573/751-4115 ▲ Missouri Relay Center: 1-800-735-2966 (TDD)

JOHN D. HOSKINS, Director

REPLY TO: Resource Science Center
1110 S. College Ave.
Columbia, MO 65201
Telephone: 573-882-9880
Fax: 573-882-4517

November 28, 2005

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Use Attainability Analysis Coordinator
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176

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Sincerely,

Cindy DiStefano
Resource Scientist

COMMISSION

STEPHEN C. BRADFORD
Cape Girardeau

CHIP McGEEHAN
Marshfield

CYNTHIA METCALFE
St. Louis

LOWELL MOHLER
Jefferson City

RECEIVED
NOV 30 AM 11:45
WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

DiStefano, Cindy
p2 of 2

Mississippi River

Fwd: Mississippi Trip Report - Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR

Feager, Joe



"Dan Sherburne"
<dsherburne@moenviron.org
>
Sent by:
notify@yahoogroups.com

To stacia.bax@dnr.mo.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Fwd: Mississippi Trip Report

11/27/2005 02:56 PM

Stacia -

Here is an account posted by Joe Feager on the St. Louis Canoe & Kayak Club Yahoo group website of a trip several of them took by kayak on the Mississippi River from Chain of Rocks to Eads Bridge. Joe gave me permission to forward this to you and the Clean Water Commission as evidence that people are engaging in WBCR on the river.

Thanks,
Dan Sherburne
Missouri Coalition for the Environment

--- In stlouiscanoeakayakclub@yahoogroups.com, "Joe Feager"
<bean_63025@y...> wrote:

What do St. Louis kayakers do in November when it is 65 degrees? Why we go kayaking of course. So this morning 6 intrepid folk set out for a short 2 hour tour of the Mississippi. The forecast was for partly sunny temperatures, highs in the mid 60's with light winds. It is well known that forecasting the weather in St. Louis is a like betting on the long shot at Fairmont and this was one of those days. We had some sprinkles in the morning before ever embarking but then the sun was shining on us as we pushed off at the Chain of Rocks. Everyone paddled out into the turbulent waters below the low water dam to see what it was like and then set out towards the Arch. Our tour was extended due to some slight miscalculations on the part of the weatherman concerning the breezes for the day. We faced stiff headwinds all day and never could find a lee shore. Shelter for lunch was found by happenstance. We pulled into the outlet for storm water that had washed down to bedrock. This provided some shelter from the wind while we ate. Landing, however, was an interesting experience for some. It became immediately obvious that the only solid footing around was the bedrock. Being brave souls we turned our backs to the double box culvert and ate while watching the Mighty Mississippi roll by. We did keep a finely tuned ear to our rear though just in case it had started to rain somewhere north and west in the city. Had that happened it really would have been interesting trying to sort out boats and people. Someone may have mentioned that it would be first come first served or every man for himself. It was good that we had our lunch break when we did because the winds picked up considerably and the rest of the trip was done in silence as we ground our way downstream. As we approached the Eads Bridge it was hard to tell the difference between the turbulent waters we had seen below the Chain of Rocks and the wind tossed waves we were facing. It was a good test of everyone's front hatches as they were under water a lot during the roller coaster ride up and down the 2 ft + waves. Our 2 hour tour ended up a little longer but at least we returned on the same day and weren't shipwrecked. There was a mighty celebration after we landed and were standing on solid ground. If a trip like this has to be done it can be drudgery but if you keep a positive attitude and have great company like we did it is just another good day on the water.

--- End forwarded message ---

Mississippi River

Gorry, John

From: Linda Mebruer/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR on 10/26/2005 01:34 PM
To: Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR
Cc:

While You Were Out

Contact:
John Gorry

at:
Pacific, MO

Phone:
(636) 257-8371

FAX:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephoned | <input type="checkbox"/> Will Return |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please Call | <input type="checkbox"/> Left Package |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Will Call Again | <input type="checkbox"/> Please See Me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Returned Call | <input type="checkbox"/> Urgent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Was In | |

Message:

RE: Just read the news article about River Des Peres, Maline Creek, etc.

10-27-05 7:55am left message for me to call him ~10-27
3:30pm

River des Peres → canoe

sent email to Paul Morris, SCRO
10-28-05

- lives in Pacific area
- Saturday night/Sunday morning - smells bad around green dye color neon (like do cave search)
- maybe once/twice a month.
- swam 1970's + early 1980's where Deer Creek + River des Peres meet (childhood - summer every other)
- skis @ Alton
- accidental swim in River des Peres in Forest Park. ~5-8 yrs. ago.
- concrete dam @ confluence

Marcelo Perez - part S. Broadway - right
before locks area - concrete gates that
went into Miss. R.

1974 Flood → Red Cross asked questions &
given shots while helping w/ sand bags - thought
strange since always play in water.

→ Been in many streams in St. Louis area.

Mississippi River Swam

- Cliff Cave Park → S. of Meramec R
confluence on Miss R. ^{once/twice a year}
off Telegraph Road.
- Jefferson Barracks ^{Mem. Park} - Hwy 270 + Miss R
North ~ 1 mile ^{once/twice a year.}
- sometimes oil slicks on Miss. R.
- Caver
- 1980's early 1990's 4 or so times a year
- large group - various ages
- wash off in Miss. R - swim & splash

Mississippi River

Re: clean water - Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR

Haessig, Dave



"Dave Haessig"
<dghaessig@sbcglobal.net>
11/03/2005 04:28 AM

To "Stacia Bax" <stacia.bax@dnr.mo.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: clean water

Thank you for your reply to my mot. I have kayaked this summer from the confluence to the chain of rocks in may of 2005. I then kayaked in June of 2005 from the confluence to the north city boat acces. In july I kayaked from downtown levee to the confluence of the Meramec river. In August of 2005 I kayaked from Alton to the Lewis and Clark winter site, and from the confluence of the Meramec to Kimswick. I hope this will let you know that Mississipi river is used by people who come in close contact with the river and clean water is important to the health of the people of Missouri.

Thanks again,
Dave Haessig

Stacia Bax <stacia.bax@dnr.mo.gov> wrote:

Hi Mr. Haessig,
Thank you for you comments.

I was wondering if you could more specifically tell me the locations of recreational activities in the water (e.g., where you or others kayak, etc.) An example could be, "I have kayaked near Holiday Island at mile marker XYZ near Wittenberg, MO down to ABC, MO every weekend from May to September since 1985." The more specific the better.

Dam #27 is in St. Louis City, around the Chain of Rocks area. We are seeking comments from St. Louis City down to where the Ohio River enters the Mississippi (near Charleston, MO/Cairo, IL). If you know of other groups that use this segment of the river, please encourage them to comment. The more information we receive, the better the decision will be.

The comments you made below will be added to the other comments we will receive. They will be presented to the Missouri Clean Water Commission at their meeting in January 2006. If you would like more specifics about the meeting and its results, just let me know. We will also be submitting all comments received to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for their consideration.

As more citizens, like yourself, tell us their comments, the better we can manage the water resources of the state.

Thanks again.
Stacia Bax
Environmental Specialist
MDNR, Water Quality Monitoring & Assessment Section
573-526-7838

"Dave Haessig" <dghaessig@sbcglobal.net>

To stacia.bax@dnr.mo.gov

11/01/2005 05:35 PM

cc
Subject clean water

I am writing to express my support for bringing Missouri's waterways into compliance with the "fishable/swimmable" goal of the Clean Water Act.

We must do more as a state to protect our natural resources, including the streams and lakes that so many of us enjoy. There remain many indications that improvements are needed. For example:

- More than 90 percent of our state's surface waters are not required to be clean enough for people to swim in;
- Some 10,000 miles of Missouri streams are impaired by habitat degradation;
- Almost half of Missouri's lake areas are impaired by mercury, manganese, or nutrients.

I understand that a Use Attainability Analysis (UAA) has been submitted on Mississippi River in St. Louis City and St. Louis County and that an exemption from Whole Body Contact designation is being considered. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the UAA and would like to express my opposition to an exemption and my support for making Mississippi River safe for recreation.

I live in St. Louis, a short distance from Mississippi River. My family has spent a great deal of time on the river over the years. During this spring, summer, and fall I have kayaked on the Mississippi River on five occasions. On these occasions I have come in close contact with the water even immersing myself during eskimo rolls.

I ask that you protect my family's health and that of other families who use, or would like to use, Mississippi River by retaining the Whole Body Contact designation for this river and requiring that wastewater discharges into it be disinfected.

I enjoy the recreational values of all Missouri's waterways and believe they deserve protection. I urge you to ensure that Missouri's waters fully meet the "fishable/swimmable" goal of the Clean Water Act. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Dave Haessig

Mississippi River.
Big River
Meramec River

Joachim Creek
Platten Creek
Barque Creek

Hartnett, Kevin
8-29-05

Dear, Department of Natural Resources,
I am concerned about the
water quality of the streams
I visit. I would like
to see any stream or creek
safe to swim in. I swim
in the Meramec river,
the Big River regularly. I
have also swam in
Joachim creek, Once I swam
in Platten Creek. When I
have the chance, I will
swim in the Mississippi.
Any creek that looks like it
would hold fish, I would
wade in it and try to
get fish. How do I know
if that creek is safe?
Once I took my son too
La Barque Creek and swam
and ate fish out of it, this
creek, it is a tributary of the
Meramec off of Hwy FF in
Franklin county. If you
can, please keep all our
streams safe. How about
research another use for
sewage.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hartnett

Kevin Hartnett
100 Parkhill Terrace
Fenton MO 63026

SAINT LOUIS MO 631

30 AUG 05 PM 05 #30



Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 176
Jefferson City MO
65102

240176-76 8002

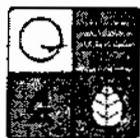


Mississippi River

Fw: Comments on Water Quality Standards Rule - Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR

Heisel, Edward

p1821



Marlene
Kirchner/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR

08/01/2005 09:31 AM

To Phil Schroeder/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR, Stacia
Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR, Linda
Mebruer/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Comments on Water Quality Standards Rule

Marlene Kirchner
Program Secretary
Water Protection Program
(573) 751-6721

----- Forwarded by Marlene Kirchner/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR on 08/01/2005 09:31 AM -----



"Edward Heisel"
<ejheisel@yahoo.com>

07/31/2005 04:07 PM

To "Marlene Kirchner" <marlene.kirchner@dnr.mo.gov>

cc

Subject Comments on Water Quality Standards Rule

Dear Ms. Kirchner:

The comments relate to the draft water quality rule and the proposed recreational designation for the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. The DNR's recommendation was "inconclusive" as to the proper recreational use of these rivers.

I am a frequent user of the Missouri River, most often in my kayak in the reach bounded by St. Louis County, Missouri. While on these regular trips, I am regularly sprayed with mist from my paddles and the wind, sometimes to the point of becoming soaked with river water. River water regularly comes into contact with my face and upper body when seated in my kayak. I kayak on the river throughout the year when the temperature allows, including several times earlier this year when the river approached 100,000 cfs at St. Charles.

I also enjoy wading along sandbars in the river. On one occasion, I swam in the river, as that term is commonly understood (i.e. full body submersion), in slow moving water near a sandbar. When the river is low (i.e. less than 50,000 cfs at St. Charles) there is an abundance of places on the lower river where it would be safe and enjoyable to swim as a result of shallow depths, slow current and a sandy substrate. I would swim more often in the river if I was confident that pollution levels were meeting water quality standards designed to protect recreational uses.

I also regularly kayak on the Mississippi River in St. Louis County and in New Madrid County, similarly getting sprayed with river water, and wading in shallow water near sandbars. On two occasions I have floated on the Mississippi River at New Madrid when it was at or near flood stage. I would engage in more extensive contact with Mississippi River water if I were more confident that it was meeting recreational standards.

Please place these comments in DNR's record pertaining to appropriate recreational use designations. Thank you.

Ted Heisel
7564 Wise Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63117
314.401.6218

Mississippi River.

Heisel, Edward
Ted

Fw: Comments - Mississippi River Use Designation - Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR

A.p 18 11



Phil
Schroeder/WPCP/DEQ/MO
DNR

09/12/2005 08:25 AM

To Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR, Mohsen
Dkhili/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Comments - Mississippi River Use Designation

For the file.

----- Forwarded by Phil Schroeder/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR on 09/12/2005 08:24 AM -----



"Edward Heisel"
<ejheisel@yahoo.com>

09/09/2005 07:26 PM

To "Bonnie Liscek" <liscek.bonnie@epa.gov>

cc "Phil Schroeder" <phil.schroeder@dnr.mo.gov>, "Marlene
Kirchner" <marlene.kirchner@dnr.mo.gov>

Subject Comments - Mississippi River Use Designation

Marlene / Bonnie - This is probably the first of many submissions we will be making in the coming weeks on these issues.

Bonnie, I also submitted to DNR yesterday our discovery responses from the federal lawsuit and one of the affidavits we submitted in that case. This was all attached to our motion for summary judgment.

Please find attached hereto a web page from Mississippi County, Missouri, that refers to the use of the Mississippi River at that location for water-skiing.

Despite a report in the Post-Dispatch that indicated the southern cutoff was the Meramec River, as I recall the Commission voted to exempt the entire stretch of the Mississippi from Chain of Rocks to the Missouri border. Please let me know if my interpretation is in error.

Finally, please let me know if you have trouble opening this file.

Thanks,
Ted Heisel

Edward J. Heisel
Executive Director
Missouri Coalition for the Environment
6267 Delmar Boulevard
Suite 2E
St. Louis, Missouri 63130
314.727.0600 (office)
314.401.6218 (cell)
314.727.1665 (fax)
www.moenviro.org

COUNTY PROFILE

LOCATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Mississippi County, Missouri is located in Southeast Missouri, and is the easternmost county of the state. It is half way between St. Louis and Memphis, Nashville and Springfield, Missouri.

Interstate 57 goes through Charleston and Interstate 55 is 10 miles to the west, providing excellent, four lane access to cities north and south, Highway 60 also runs through Charleston, providing the east west link.

The Mississippi and Ohio Rivers join here, providing immediate access to river transportation. Approximately one half of the population of the United States is within a 500 mile radius of Missouri.

The Dorena-Hickman Ferry is the only Mississippi River ferry still in existence from Ste. Genevieve, Missouri to Louisiana, and the 20 minute boat ride gives visitors and residents alike, a pleasurable look at the river.

The Mississippi River Trail, a bicycle trail stretching from just below St. Louis to New Orleans, goes through Mississippi County.

Heisel, Edward
Apr 28 11

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

There are two school districts in Mississippi county, the R-1 School District which serves the northern half of the county and the R-2 School District, serving the south end of the county. Graduates from both districts do well in college and in the world. Both public high schools in Mississippi County, in Charleston and East Prairie, offer some vocational training to their students and G.E.D. adult education training is available.

PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

The largest private elementary school is St. Henry's Catholic School located in Charleston. Cornerstone Baptist School is located in Bertrand and a private elementary school is also located in East Prairie.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Southeast Missouri State University, a four-year university which also offers graduate degrees, which is located in Cape Girardeau, 35 miles north.

Three Rivers Community College is located in Poplar Bluff, 65 miles west.

Shawnee Community College is located in Ullin, Illinois, 42 miles to the northeast.

Murray State University is located in Murray, Kentucky, 70 miles southeast of Charleston.

VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Vocational - technical schools are located in Sikeston (11 miles) and New

Madrid (30 miles), offer a variety of courses.

FIRE PROTECTION

The Cities of Charleston and East Prairie have fully staffed fire stations with up-to-date equipment. The Cities of Wyatt, Bertrand and Anniston have volunteer Fire Departments with trucks. Mutual Aid agreements are also in place with the neighboring communities in case of a major conflagration. Charleston and East Prairie provide fire protection services to the Rural Fire Protection District under annual contracts.

MEDICAL SERVICES

DOCTORS AND CLINICS

There are three MDs living and working in Mississippi County and Missouri Delta Medical Center operates a clinic out of the Mississippi County Health Department. Ferguson Clinic of Sikeston, (23 doctors) has a satellite office in East Prairie. There are also three dentists in Mississippi County, one eye doctor, and two chiropractors. The Visiting Nurses Association of Southeast Missouri provides home health care as needed.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

Fully equipped acute care hospitals are located in Sikeston (11 miles), and in Cape Girardeau (35 miles).

MOBILE MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Mississippi County has an Ambulance District manned 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with paramedics and EMT's. The Ambulance District office is half-way between Charleston and East Prairie on Highway 105. The closest hospital is the Missouri Delta Medical Center in Sikeston and the St. Francis

Heisel, Edward
A.p 3/8/11

Hospital and the Southeast Medical Center work in conjunction with the District to provide capable emergency treatment in the field.

The county is within two hours of medical facilities in Memphis and St. Louis by vehicle, and by Air-Medivac.

9-1-1 EMERGENCY CALLING IS AVAILABLE

***WORK FORCE
AVAILABILITY/DIVERSIFICATION***

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The Mississippi County unemployment rate for January 1997 was at 9.9 percent.

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Year	Charleston	East Prairie	County	MSA(*)
1970	5,131	3,275	16,647	159,203
1980	5,230	3,713	15,722	168,638
1990	5,085	3,416	14,442	156,674

*Above information includes following counties Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott, Stoddard.

Race: County: 80% White, 19.4% Black, .3% Hispanic

Median Age: 32-34 years

Female: 35-37 years

Male: 30-32 years

AREA WORKFORCE, LABOR MARKET, & AREA STATISTICS

The workforce of this four-county area comes from Mississippi, New Madrid, Scott and Stoddard counties.

According to the Sikeston Unemployment Office as of January 1997:

COUNTY/LMA	CLF	EMP	UNEMP	RATE
Mississippi	6065	5465	600	9.9
New Madrid	8598	7910	688	8.0
Scott	19631	18214	1417	7.2
Stoddard	14377	12710	1667	11.6
LOCAL OFFICE TOTAL	48671	44299	4372	9.0

LIBRARIES

Mississippi County has had a Library District supported by a property tax since the 1940s. The Clara Drinkwater Newman Library building is in downtown Charleston and a branch library, the Mitchell Memorial Library in East Prairie.

CHARACTERISTICS & SERVICES

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

Mississippi County, Missouri is the northernmost portion of the Mississippi River Embayment formed over time by sediments from the

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"Father of Waters." Soils are rich, topography appears flat, and historically, farming has been the primary industry. Primary crops grown include corn, soybeans, wheat and grain sorghum, although potatoes, sweet corn, tomatoes and melons are gaining in importance.

There is an abundant, recharging supply of good quality ground water.

The county is part of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project and is protected by 500-year levees. The region has not flooded from river flooding since 1937.

COMMUNITIES

Charleston is the county seat of Mississippi County and known for its beautiful dogwoods and azaleas and old historic homes. Other communities include East Prairie, Bertrand, Wyatt, Anniston, Wilson City and Pinhook.

WATER AND UTILITIES

DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEM

Adequate domestic water is available in each of the cities of the county, with the exception of the incorporated village of Pinhook. A Rural Water District has been approved by voters in the unincorporated portion of the county, and the Water District Board is working to provide treated water to county residents. At the moment, those living in the unincorporated part of the county have private wells.

SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

Adequate sewage treatment facilities are also available to those within the city limits. County residents rely on private septic systems.

ELECTRICAL POWER SYSTEM

Adequate electricity is provided by AmerenUE, or by the Scott-New Madrid-Mississippi Electric Co-op, a rural electric cooperative.

NATURAL GAS

Mississippi County is served by United Cities Gas Company. Fuel Oil and LP gas are supplied by several private companies.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Southwestern Bell Telephone has up-to-date facilities capable of providing digital services such as I.S.D.N. or any other requirements up to a DS-1 Transmission Rate.

Local Internet connections are available at a reasonable cost.

PARKS AND RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

The Cities of Charleston and East Prairie have a full array of public parks, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, swimming pools, etc. There are 13 public parks in the two communities and East Prairie has recently finished construction of the 14th, a 20-acre Family Recreation Center. There are also three public fishing ponds in the two cities, two in Charleston and one in East Prairie. There is one private country club/golf course just east of the Charleston city limits.

In addition, there are numerous fishing holes in Mississippi County, plus five public access points to the Mississippi River itself where visitors enjoy fishing, motor boating and water-skiing. There is one private campground in Charleston, and numerous areas to hike or ride bicycles. The Mississippi River Trail, a multi-state endeavor extending from New Orleans to St. Genevieve, Missouri, enters Missouri through the Dorena-Hickman Ferry,

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one of the few remaining ferries on the Mississippi.

The Missouri Department of Conservation has several conservation areas and lakes in the county, including the Robert DeLaney Lake one mile north of the city, known for its great crappie fishing; the Ten Mile Pond Conservation Area and Number Seven Island Conservation Area where hunting is available in season. They also manage the Tom Bird Blue Hole, the Moore River Access Point, the 34 Corner Blue Hole and the Dorena Access Point.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources manages Big Oak Tree State Park, a National Natural Landmark, and one of the last remaining virgin bottom land forest and cypress swamps in the nation. Walk the boardwalk through the swamp, spend the day fishing or watch the sky for the more than 150 different species of birds known to exist there. In September, Big Oak hosts Living History Day, a special event where modern artisans demonstrate a number of traditional crafts from days gone by.

Mississippi County's heritage is as rich as its soil, and you can share in that heritage at Towosahgy State Historic Site, battle of Belmont State Historic Site, Historic Museum of Mississippi County, Governor Warren E. Hearnes Museum, and the Mississippi County Historical Society Home and Museum.

Towosahgy State Historic Site, a 65 acre historic site listed on the National Register, preserves the remains of a once fortified Indian village, which was also an important ceremonial center for the Mississippian Indians who lived here.

The Battle of Belmont was Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant's first major battle of the Civil War. A historic marker at the end of Highway 80 interprets the battle. It was at this same site that during the war a huge chain was stretched across the river from Mississippi County to Columbus, Kentucky in an attempt to stop river traffic. A part of the chain is displayed in the Mississippi County Historical Society Museum.

In April, Charleston hosts the Dogwood Azalea Festival. Lawns, gardens and parks are alive with vibrant spring flowers and special events appeal to both visitors and residents. East Prairie, a town rich in railroad history, is home to the annual Sweet corn Festival and fourth of July Celebration. In October, Charleston hosts neighboring bands for the annual Southeast

Missouri Band Association parade and East Prairie hosts Fall Feast in October.

COMMUNITY PROFILE I

Show-Me Missouri Community Profiles

COMMUNITIES: CHARLESTON AND EAST PRAIRIE

Population

CHARLESTON

1990 City Population 5,085
3,416

1990 Mississippi County Population 14,442

EAST PRAIRIE

1990 City Population

Municipal Information

Rating :

Government Form

Charleston: City Manager

East Prairie: Mayor, Council/City Administrator

Fire Insurance Class

Charleston: 6

East Prairie: 6

Full Time Policemen:

Enforcement? yes Charleston: 19

Engineers? no

East Prairie: 7

Zoning? no

Planning & Zoning

City

Mississippi County

The Mississippi County Sheriff's Department:

7 full time deputies

5 full time dispatchers/jailers on duty around the clock.

The department also has a total of 30 deputy reserves on standby at all times.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chambers of Commerce? yes

Charelston Chamber of Commerce

East Prairie Chamber of Commerce

City Industrial Development Authorities? yes

Mississippi County Industrial Development Authority? yes

TRANSPORTATION

Nearest Public Airport: MISSISSIPPI COUNTY AIRPORT

Distance to Nearest Public Airport Charleston: 4 miles

Distance to Nearest Public Airport East Prairie: 5 miles

Length of Runway: 3200 feet

Nearest Regional Airport: CAPE GIRARDEAU

Name of Airport: CAPE REGIONAL AIRPORT

Nearest Air Freight Service: 30 miles

Navigable River : MISSISSIPPI

Public Barge Dock? no

Private Barge Dock? yes

Highways:

Interstate Highways:

2 (1-57 and 1-55)

US Highways:

2 (US 60 and 62)

Missouri Highways:

4 (MO 77, 80, 102 and 105)

Motor Freight Carriers:

B&J TRUCKING
STERLING TRANSPORTATION
JOHN TATUM
MEDLIN EQUIPMENT CO. INC.
M&M FREIGHT
DANNY RUSSELL
THRESHER
PHILLIPS
R.G.I.
JOHNSTON TRANSPORT DOWDY
McMILLEN
EDWARDS
LANKHEIT
FARM PRODUCTS CO. INC.
ATERS
DELTA GROWERS
EAST MATERIAL SYSTEM INC.
FRENCH IMPLEMENT CO. INC.
THURMAN
ELLIS
LARRY TAYLOR TRUCKING

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BILLY THOMAS
NANCY GAMBLE
JACKSON TRUCKING
JIM HENDERSON TRUCKING
LARRY THOMAS
BIG LAKE TRANSPORT INC.
STEPHENSON TRUCKING
MID VALLEY IRRIGATION, INC.
CARYLE
OWENS
GENE CADE
DONNIE THOMAS
ROBERT ELLIOTT
EUGENE HALE
DARRELL ABNER

NUMEROUS OTHER CARRIERS

COMMUNITY PROFILE II

EDUCATION

PUBLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES:

Southeast Missouri State University Cape Girardeau, MO (30 miles)

Enrollment - 8,800

Highest Degree Conferred -Doctorate

Three Rivers Community Junior College Poplar Bluff, MO (70 miles)

Enrollment -1,885

Sikeston Area Higher Education Center

Sikeston, MO. (25 miles)

Murray State University Murray, KY. (70 miles)

Shawnee Community College Ullin, IL. (42 miles)

Paducah Community College Paducah, Ky. (50 miles)

PRIVATE SCHOOLS:

St. Henry's Catholic Church (Elementary)
70 Students, 7 Teachers

First Baptist Church of Bertrand (Elementary)
2 Students, 4 Teachers

Victory Baptist Church East Prairie (Elementary)
20 Students, 2 Teachers

NUMBER OF LOCAL LICENSED DAY CARE CENTERS:

Charleston 6
East Prairie 4

HEAD START CENTERS

Wyatt, East Prairie, Pinhook and DAEOC

Both Public School Districts also have classes for three and four year old children.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS:

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Charleston Reorganized School District No.1

Accreditations:

State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Current Statistics: AAA Rating

Charleston's Enrollment:

Kindergarten: 107

Elementary: 583

Middle: 372 Sr.

High: 411

Public School Teachers:

117 Full Time

5 Part Time

East Prairie Reorganized School District No.2

East Prairie's Enrollment:

Kindergarten: 90

Elementary: 293

Middle: 291 Jr.

High: 238

Sr. High: 370

Public School Teachers:

107 Certificated Teachers

57 Full Time Non Certified

15 Part Time Non-Cerlified

Vocational Schools:

**FOUR AVAILABLE
High Schools and
NEW MADRID VO-TECH
SIKESTON VO-TECH**

RECREATION

**Public Swimming Pools: 2
Public Tennis Courts: 9
Public Parks: 13, including 2 fishing ponds/lakes
Public Golf Courses: 1 (County)
Handball/Racquetball Courts: 0
Country Clubs: 1 Private (County)**

**Nearest Public Access to River: 7 miles
Swimming? no
Fishing? yes
Motor boating? yes
Water Skiing? yes
Camping? yes
Hiking/Fitness Trails? yes**

Other Recreation:

**100 ACRE PUBLIC FISHING LAKE (One mile north of City)
BIG OAK TREE STATE PARK
TOWOSAHEGY STATE HISTORIC SITE
DORENA-HICKMAN FERRY
BATTLE OF BELMONT SITE
10 MILE POND CONSERVATION AREA
NO. 7 ISLAND CONSERVATION AREA
DONALDSON POINT STATE FOREST
34 CORNER BLUE HOLE**

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Hotels and Motels: 3
Guest Houses: 2
Public Libraries: 2

UTILITIES

Charleston:

Municipal Water? yes

Water Supplier: CITY OF CHARLESTON (573) 683-3325

Water Plant Capacity: 2.1 mgd

Sewage Plant Type: LAGOON

Sewage Service Supplier: CITY OF CHARLESTON (573) 683-3325

Waste Water Treatment Plant Capacity: 1.6 mgd

Natural Gas Service? yes

New Gas Hookups Available? yes

Natural Gas Supplier: ASSOCIATED NATURAL GAS (573) 683-3768

LP Gas Distributor: SUTHERLAND OIL COMPANY (573) 683-6573

Private Electricity Supplier? yes

Electric Company: UNION ELECTRIC (573) 683-6288

East Prairie:

Municipal Water? yes

Water Supplier: CITY OF EAST PRAIRIE (573) 649-3057

Water Plant Capacity: 1.1 million gallons

Sewage Plant Type: TWO CELL AERATED LAGOON

Sewage Service Supplier: CITY OF EAST PRAIRIE (573) 649-3057

Water Treatment Plant Capacity: 600 thousand gallons

Natural Gas Service? yes

New Gas Hookups Available? yes

Natural Gas Supplier: ASSOCIATED NATURAL GAS (573) 683-3768

Oil Distributor: MFA OIL CO (573) 649-3516

LP Gas Distributor: MFA PROPANE INC (573) 649-2201

Private Electricity Supplier? yes

Electric Company: UNION ELECTRIC (573) 651-5642

CLIMATE

Coldest Month: JANUARY

Average High: 42° F

Average Low: 24° F

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Hottest Month: JULY

Average High: 89° F

Average Low: 69° F

Driest Month: OCTOBER

Average Precipitation: 2.6 inches

Wettest Month: MARCH

Average Precipitation: 4.9 inches

Annual Average Rain: 46.9 inches

Annual Average Snow: 8.0 inches

MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Employer: GATES RUBBER CO.

Employees: 450

Product: RUBBER HOSES

SOUTHEAST CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

New state prison construction completed in late 2001.

Employer: STATE OF MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Employees: 439

Employer: UNION ELECTRIC Employees: 18

Product: ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTORS

Employer STANLEY MUFFLER

Employees 32

Product MUFFLERS, TRACTORS, EQUIPMENT

Employer CHARLESTON R-1 SCHOOL DIST

Employees 202

Product PUBLIC EDUCATION

Employer EAST PRAIRIE R-2 SCHOOL DIST.
Employees 160
Product PUBliC EDUCATION

Employer REEVES BOOMLAND
Employees 80
Product: TOURIST SERVICES

Employer FITZGERALD MARINE
Employees 81
Product: BARGE FLEETING SERVICES

Employer CHARLESTON INN
Employees 33
Product: MOTEL/RESTAURANT

CHURCHES
Protestant: 39
Catholic: 1

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
Banks: 3
Savings & Loan Associations: 1

COMMUNITY PROFILE III

MEDICAL

HOSPITALS:

Ap. 11811

Name: *Missouri Delta Medical Center*

Beds: 138

Location: Sikeston

Name:

Location: 1200 E. Marshall, Charleston

Name: *St. Francis Medical Center*

Beds: 260

Location: Cape Girardeau

Name: *Southeast Missouri Hospital*

Beds: 201 Cape Girardeau

Agencies which provide local 24 hour emergency medical mobile services:

Mississippi County Ambulance Service

Supported by county property tax as well as charges for services.

Agencies which provide local 24 Hour emergency Medical air helicopter services:

St. Francis Medical Center

Southeast Missouri Hospital

9-1-1 Emergency calling is available throughout Mississippi County

CLINICS:

Mississippi County Health Department

1200 E. Marshall, Charleston

with a satellite office in

East Prairie

Ferguson Medical Group

East Prairie

Physicians: 6.5
Dentists: 3
Eye Doctors: 1
Nursing Homes: 3

Other:

Visiting Nurses Association of Southeast Missouri
Walker and Associates in-home-health services

OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES:

Susanna Wesley Family Learning Center
Missouri Baptist Children's Home
Domestic Violence Shelter
Sheltered Workshop (Sikeston, Supported by Mississippi County Properly Tax)
R.S.V.P. Senior Citizens' Nutrition Centers: 2
Mississippi County Rescue Squad

RELATED LINKS:

Political History of Mississippi County, find out where all the Mississippi County politicians are buried.

MOGen Web - find your ancestors that lived in Mississippi County along with many other interesting facts.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri Tourism

Missouri Municipal League

Heisel, Edward
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Fw: Comments - Mississippi River Use Designation - Chain of Rocks Area - Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR

B. p184



Phil
Schroeder/WPCP/DEQ/MO
DNR

09/12/2005 08:25 AM

To Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR, Mohsen
Dkhili/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Comments - Mississippi River Use Designation - Chain
of Rocks Area

File.

----- Forwarded by Phil Schroeder/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR on 09/12/2005 08:25 AM -----



"Edward Heisel"
<ejheisel@yahoo.com>

09/09/2005 07:48 PM

To "Bonnie Liscek" <lisceck.bonnie@epa.gov>

cc "Marlene Kirchner" <marlene.kirchner@dnr.mo.gov>, "Phil
Schroeder" <phil.schroeder@dnr.mo.gov>

Subject Comments - Mississippi River Use Designation - Chain of
Rocks Area

Attached is a web page documenting the use of the Chain of Rocks area by kayakers. I know at least one of these people personally and he's out there fairly regularly.

Ted Heisel

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Chain of Rocks Rapids on the Mississippi

Description

Class III features, ranging from eddylines to big holes and waves at some levels and locations.
*Reliable river role is a **MUST!***

"Runnable" pretty much all year, but the best playspots are in the Missouri Shoals near the water treatment plant. These spots are only available when the gauge is 9.5 feet or less.

Dangers

Can't get out on land that touches the Missouri bank because this is private property owned by the City of Saint Louis (for the water treatment plant). Security no longer allows paddlers on shore.

There is a nasty low head dam in the middle of the shoals. 100 yards or so below Blockhouse but above the other play features. "Oil Can Hole" is a dangerous life threatening hole that is difficult to rescue from.

Levels

As of September 5, 2005, the Eades Bridge Gauge incorrectly forecasts Chain levels -- it reads high by about 2 feet. The Mississippi River carries heavy silt load and the Chain of Rocks area is never dredged unlike the parts of the river carrying barge traffic. Thus, natural siltation at normal and low flows leads to incorrect gauge readings. See our Forum for timely information on the accuracy of the Eades Bridge gauge.

Directions

Illinois side (1): Take Rt. 3 Exit from I-270 one block south to stop light. Turn west for two miles to unpaved road veering left down to the river's edge parking area. Advantage: One can both put in and take out here. Much less muddy than Missouri side. Disadvantage: Better only at levels below 6 feet on the St. Louis Gauge, and to get to the good stuff on the Missouri side requires ferrying the entire river, twice.

Missouri Side:

I-270 Bridge (2): At northern edge of chain link fence surrounding Old Chain of Rock Bridge property, pull off on east side onto MO DOT access (unpaved) road. Advantage: Easiest route to middle, excellent put in for playing river left or right sides. Good for novices: allows warm up on forward stroke down river right side with easiest rapids and good eddies for practice. Disadvantages: Need to shuttle from Spring Garden; extremely muddy after rains.

Spring Garden (Riverside Trail) (15): Put in requires attaining one mile paddle upstream but allows for same take out as put in. But only 250 strokes or so to Mosenthein Island rapids at optimal levels from 5 feet to 9.8 feet on St. Louis Gauge.

Maps

Chain of Rocks Map

Numbers on Map correspond to feature numbers.

Aerial Photograph with spots highlighted

Description of Features

NOTE: Do not paddle without a knowledgeable guide as there is rebar, steel beams, and at least one dangerous hole out here. Do not use this as your guide, use an experienced paddler who has done the Chain of Rocks as your guide. Paddle responsibly, and with responsible

Heisel, Edward

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paddlers.

The Trolls (5): Huge, 12 to 15-foot high, reforming wave train with squirrely eddies on both sides with about 10 waves (visually to end of Illinois side rift-raft bank of rocks) Waves #2 and #4 can provide awesome surfing for longer boats. Simply drift down Illinois side below white water tower and then position yourself in the Notch. We often paddle facing upstream through Wave 1 to catch Waves 2, etc.

Leprauchaus (6): Not nearly as big as The Trolls, but consisting of 4 to 6 foot waves that also reform and fold inward unpredictably. Simply peel out on the Missouri side of the water tower and drift down to position yourself for the Notch. Both channels are deep and safe. Eddy right about Wave 6-8.

The Illini (4): From river left side of The Trolls. Excellent ferry practice for boat control, peel outs, s-turns and stern squirts from The Trolls to the Illinois side eddy below the Chain of Rocks. Best levels: Below 5 feet at St. Louis. Forms very interesting chutes for play and practice during rare times river gets down to 0 feet or lower. The Silos (4) rapids close to the Illinois bank provide excellent ferry, peelout and eddy-hitting practice for novices; and good surfing and squirts for experts when river is below 6 feet at St. Louis. Do not run the Illini below 6 feet: Rebarb may ruin more than your day.

Missouri Breaks (7): Stay parallel or higher than the Illinois rock bank over your right shoulder to ferry between eddies separating roughly six main water chutes (e.g., behind Missouri (red and white) water tower to an eddy behind a large pointed rock (9) when water level is 6.5 feet or lower. Optimal levels: Five feet and lower at St. Louis gauge. Do not run the Breaks below 6 feet. Rebarb may ruin more than your day.

(Water Treatment Area)

Block House Wing Dam (11): Shallow playspot that varies greatly by water levels. At higher (10+ feet) levels there is a large hole that forms here. Can be a bit sticky and will certainly be unsettling for novices. At various levels up to 50 yards wide there are a number of small waves and holes that form at most levels. Caution is advised, cause it can be very shallow here. Also, be very careful of Oil Can Hole directly in back of you about 100 yards!

Paul Knobloch
Surfing Block
House in August,
1999 at 10 feet.

Rookies Hole (12): First eddy along Missouri shore at start of 100 yards of natural limestone shoals has an optimal wave-hole at minus half a foot up to 9.7 feet on the gauge. Even experts can enjoy back surfing, flat spins, etc. Oil Can Hole is safely 100 yards distant toward the Illinois side. There is a good series of play holes, Before Rookies, about 50 feet to east of Rookies worth considering at most levels below 10 feet.

Playing
Rookies shot
from
downstream.

Cobblestone (13): One of the best holes on the Chain. Retentive, but kind of shallow. Too shallow for vertical moves except on the waves on each end (and they must be fast and high).

Eddy service leaves a bit to be desired, and with the recent ban on getting out on the bank, this has become something of a one-shot ride on your way down.

Erik Johnson surfing Cobblestone at 5.7 feet on Dec 5, 1999.

Primo (13): Quite possibly the finest feature on the Chain of Rocks. Five to ten feet to river left of Cobblestone is a wave that when it is breaking nicely is great for all kinds of play moves. Retentive with a foam pile, but only 5-8 feet wide depending on the levels. As the water comes down it greens out until it eventually fades away. Rough guess, is breaking from 7-7.5 feet and flat much above that. Below that it is a nice green wave down to about 6 feet. It is next to S-Eddy, so named because the eddy snakes predictably at many levels. S-Eddy will hold three or five boats comfortably. As the level gets lower the attainment eddy becomes very small.

Secondo (13): Illinois side of S-Eddy has a good novice-intermediate wave or hole from 5.5 to 7 feet. *Punk Boys (13):* Another 50 feet to northeast of Secondo as islands form. Four waves and holes with different characteristics from glass to foam pile. *Middle Earth:* Upstream side of island next to Punk Boys. At least four good blasting waves available as soon as islands appear.

Last Drop: Around half a foot to minus half a foot, a great surfing hole develops about 100 feet below Primo. AKA Sticky Hole for obvious reasons.

Salmon Run Hole (9): As the island about 30 feet below Oil Can becomes larger, an entirely safe hole forms along the NE corner of the island. From 3.5 to 5.5 feet on the St. Louis gauge, this is the premier retendo spot on the river because the hole actually forms into two downstream smiles with retendo moves easily made on both sides and the middle! A good, safe eddy formed by a huge pyramid-shaped rock protects the paddler from Oil Can Hole.

Part breaking wave, part hole and various combinations of the two this feature is good for a number of freestyle moves, including cartwheeling in a short boat in the right spots. Shallow in some places/levels though.

Mosenthein Island Area

Watch out for these spots, while traditionally thought of as very deep, up near the tops of them they aren't always. Some rocks disguise themselves as waves in the "wall" section.

The Gravy Train: The 1993 Flood created two breaks in the levee protecting Mosenthein Island with drops of 1-7 feet, depending on St. Louis Gauge readings. Optimal retendo levels for experts are 8.5 to 9.8 feet for The Mouth (first hole on Southside). Very strong eddy lines and a super wave-hole allow for all freestyle moves, but currents make for very difficult rolling at end of the wave train. Excellent spot for novice-intermediates and slalomists to practice peelouts, ferries, s-turns, etc. from 5 feet to 7.5 feet.

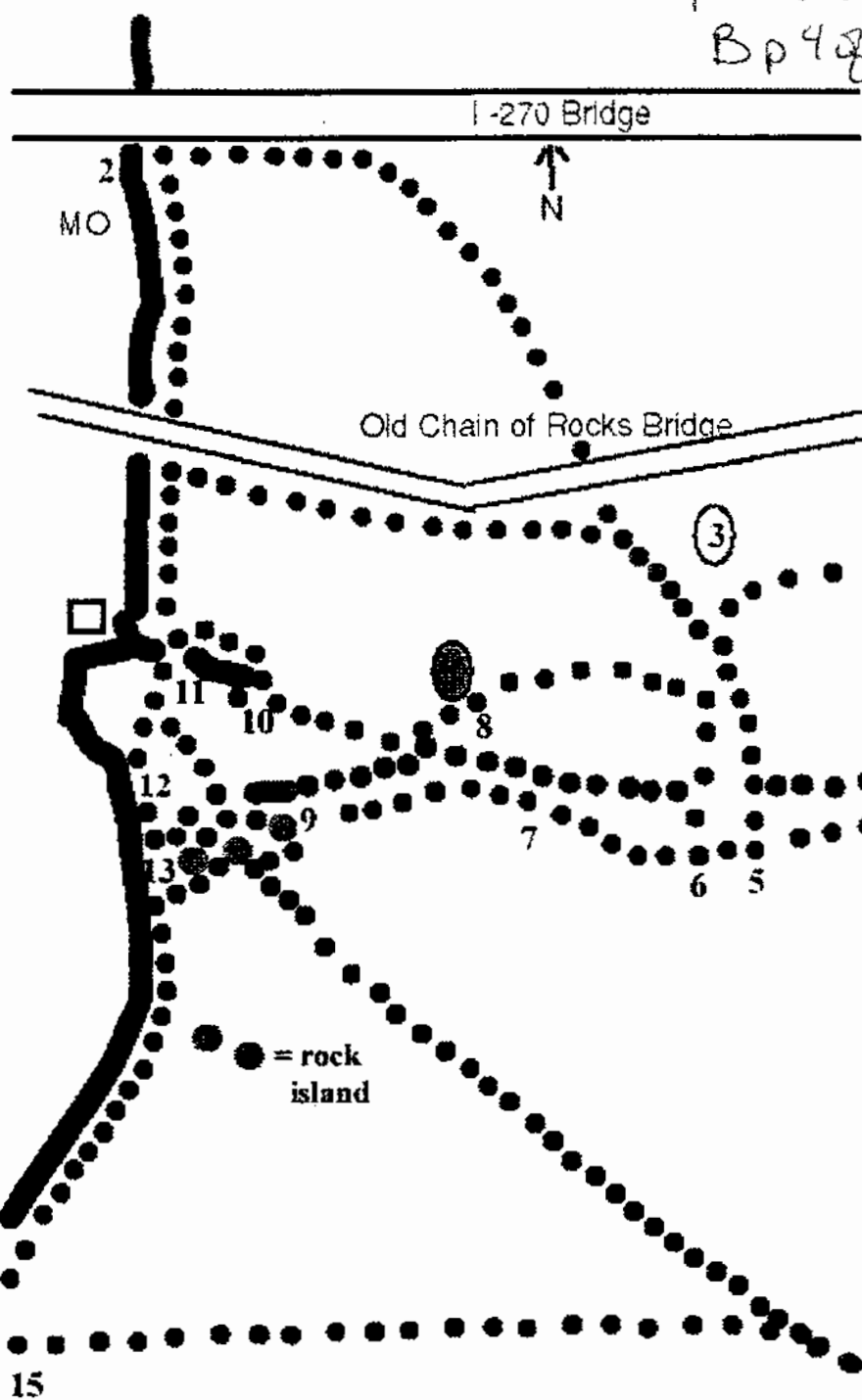
Mashed Potatoes Hole: The second wave train south is less powerful and shorter. Optimal levels for are from about 5 feet to 8 feet. The first hole (Mashed Potatoes) Good

Heisel, Edward
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novice-intermediate and slalomist practice of peelouts, ferries, s-turns etc. from 5 to 6.5 feet.

More photos and description can be found on the [American Whitewater Rivers](#) page.

[Home](#) : [Mission](#) : [Vision](#) : [In the News](#) : [Donors](#) : [Volunteers](#) : [Calendar](#) : [National Paddlesport Center](#)
[StreamTeach Academy](#) : [Other whitewater parks](#) : [Local Instruction](#) : [Paddling opportunities](#)
: [Site Map](#) : [Forum](#)







Phil
Schroeder/WPCP/DEQ/MOD
NR

09/12/2005 08:26 AM

To Stacia Bax/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR, Mohsen
Dkhili/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR@MODNR
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Comments - Mississippi River Use Designation - More
Chain of Rocks

File.

----- Forwarded by Phil Schroeder/WPCP/DEQ/MODNR on 09/12/2005 08:25 AM -----



"Edward Heisel"
<ejheisel@yahoo.com>
09/09/2005 07:52 PM

To "Bonnie Liscek" <liscek.bonnie@epa.gov>
cc "Marlene Kirchner" <marlene.kirchner@dnr.mo.gov>, "Phil
Schroeder" <phil.schroeder@dnr.mo.gov>
Subject Comments - Mississippi River Use Designation - More Chain
of Rocks

This web site has more photographic evidence of kayaking at Chain of Rocks on the Mississippi.

<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/rivers/id/2950/>

Ted Heisel

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Cobblestone at 6 feet



Description: Good level for Cobblestone. Another view of Cobblestone at record low 2003 level of minus 3 feet is at:
http://www.urnsl.edu/~hsmith/movies/cobblestone_ref.mov

Author:	Herm Smith	River:	Mississippi River, MO
Subject:	Cobblestone Hole	Rapid:	Salmon Run
Date:	Winer 2001	Level:	3 feet
Size:	15.52KB	Format:	JPG
AW Photo ID:	7824	AW Reach ID:	2950

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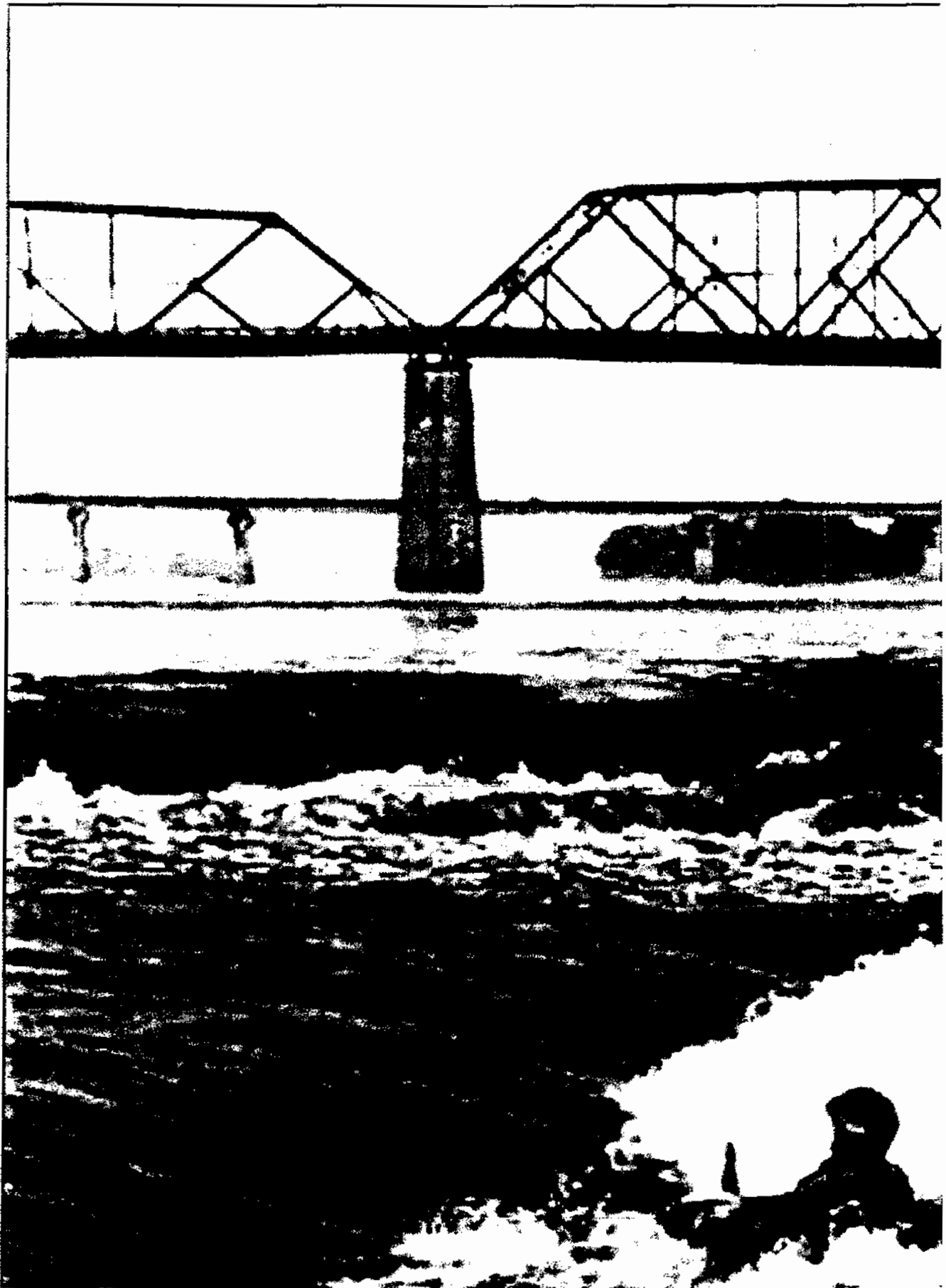
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C p2087



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Salmon Run (Oil Can Hole)





Heisel, Edward
Cp387

Description: Paul Knobloch playing Salmon Run Hole at 4 feet. Dangerous Oil Can Hole in mid-ground. Old Chain of Roc

Author:	Herm Smith	River:	Mississippi River, MO
Subject:	Salmon Run Hole	Rapid:	Salmon Run
Date:	9/22/01	Level:	4 feet
Size:	149.41KB	Format:	jpg
AW Photo ID:	7823	AW Reach ID:	2950

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Michael Gordon in
Rookies



Description: Rookies Hole against river right bank just below the St. Louis City Water Treatment Plant

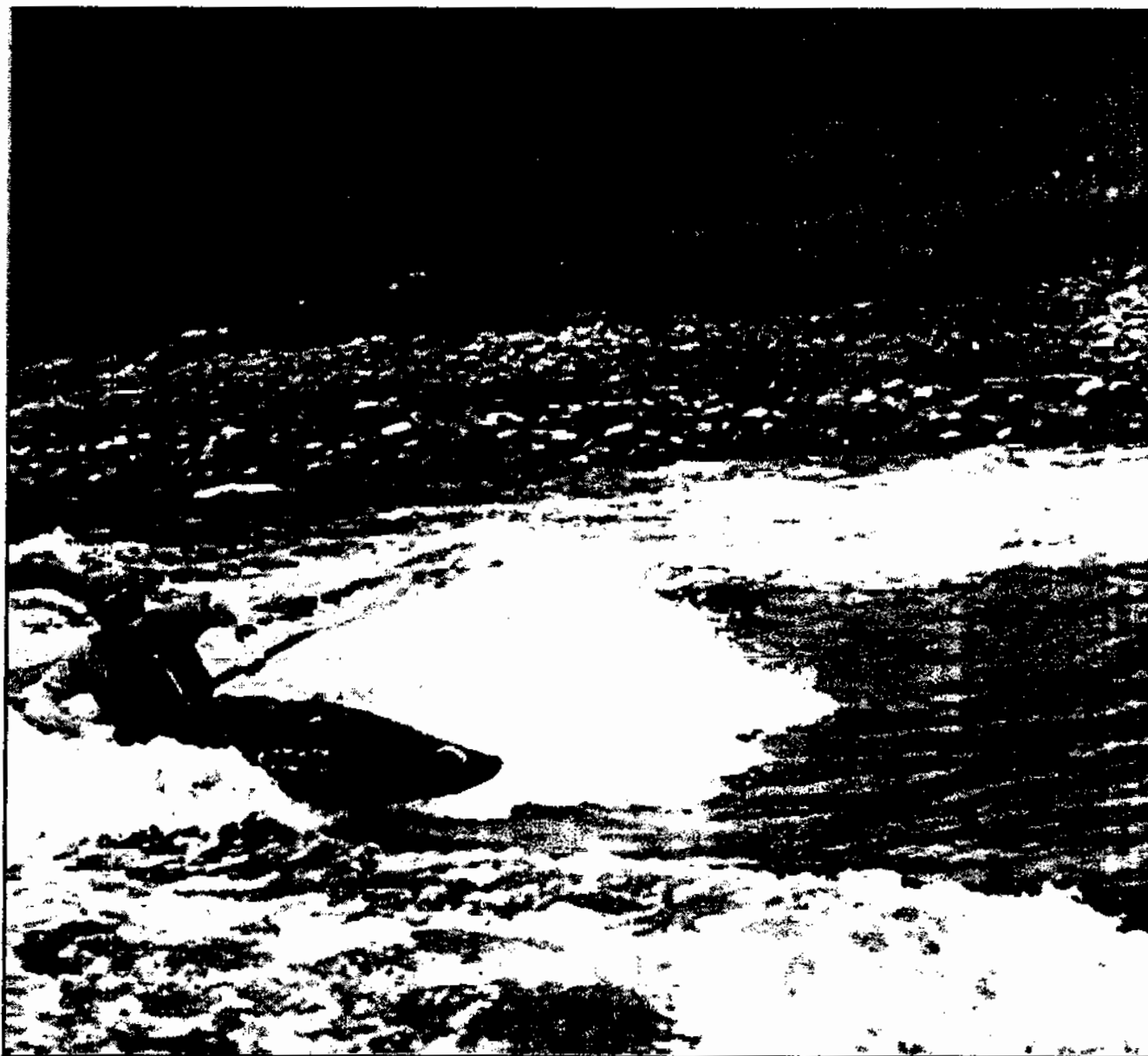
Author:	Herm Smith	River:	Mississippi River, MO
Subject:	Rookies at 8 feet	Rapid:	Chain of Rocks
Date:	April 2004	Level:	8 feet
Size:	152.74KB	Format:	
AW Photo ID:	7820	AW Reach ID:	2950

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Heisel, Edward
Cp407

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Primo at near it's best level



Description: Looking west toward Water Treatment plant from S- Eddy. Doug Pineo playing Primo with Cobblestone in ba

Author:	Herm Smith	River:	Mississippi River, MO
Subject:	Dough Pineo playing	Rapid:	Chain of Rocks
Date:	8/26/01	Level:	6 feet
Size:	147.39KB	Format:	jpg

AW Photo ID: 7822

AW Reach ID: 2950

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Heisel, Edward
C p 587

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Cobblestone



Description: Highest level for Cobblestone. Below this the wave collapse and becomes great for virtually any playboat mo

Author:	Herm Smith	River:	Mississippi River, MO
Subject:	Paul Knobloch surfing	Rapid:	Chain of Rocks
Date:	8/12/01	Level:	7 feet
Size:	151.67KB	Format:	jpg

AW Photo ID: 7821

AW Reach ID: 2950

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Cobblestone at 6 feet
(15.52KB .JPG)



Salmon Run (Oil Can Hole)
(149.41KB .jpg)



Primo at near it's best level
(147.39KB .jpg)



Cobblestone
(151.67KB .jpg)



Michael Gordon in Rookies
(152.74KB .)

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